

Hospital Data Reporting Requirements: 2009-2010 Health Care Workers Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Rates Survey

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The Maryland Health Care Commission has created this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to facilitate hospital compliance with State data reporting requirements regarding Health Care Workers (HCW) Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Rates. This document will be updated as needed and will serve as a reference for hospital Infection Preventionists and others interested in this data collection and reporting initiative. For additional background information on the Commission's HAI data collection and reporting activities, please visit our website at http://mhcc.maryland.gov/healthcare_associated_infections/index.html to access the *Report and Recommendations of the Healthcare Associated Infections Technical Advisory Committee*.

1. Which Maryland hospitals are required to report data on HCW seasonal influenza vaccination rates?

The Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) requires all non-federal Maryland acute care general hospitals to report data on the number of paid, full-time and part-time employees and house staff (defined as residents and interns) who received FluMist® or injectable flu vaccine onsite or offsite. Although hospitals are required to report to MHCC on these specific health care workers, they are encouraged to vaccinate **all** hospital staff members.

2. What is the effective date of this reporting requirement?

Hospitals are required to report data on the number of HCW seasonal influenza vaccinations for staff during the period from September 1, 2009 through April 15, 2010.

3. What is the schedule and format for reporting data to the Commission?

Data collected on HCW seasonal influenza vaccination rates will be reported to the Commission annually using an on-line survey. Data for this upcoming reporting period, September 1, 2009–April 15, 2010, should be reported to the Commission by May 15, 2010.

4. Are 'prn' employees included in the reporting of HCW seasonal influenza vaccination rates?

If these employees are paid by the hospital, they must be included in the data reported to the MHCC.

5. Are contract physician groups that work every day in the hospital included in the definition of ‘house staff’ (e.g., hospitalists, intensivists, anesthesiologists, emergency department physicians)?

These groups are not included in the current reporting requirement because they are not considered paid employees of the hospital. However, hospitals are encouraged to vaccinate all staff members including contract physician groups.

6. Does the definition of ‘residents and interns’ include medical students?

For the purpose of this MHCC reporting requirement, medical students are **not** included in the definition of ‘residents and interns’ and do not have to be reported. However, MHCC encourages hospitals to vaccinate all staff members.

7. Are hospital volunteers included these reporting requirements?

Under current MHCC reporting requirements, data on the vaccination of hospital volunteers is not required. However, MHCC encourages hospitals to vaccinate all healthcare workers, including volunteers.

8. For health care workers receiving the vaccine off-site, is the hospital required to obtain documentation?

MHCC strongly recommends that hospitals obtain documentation from HCWs who state they have been vaccinated off-site.

9. For reporting HCW seasonal influenza vaccination status, who is considered a health care worker? Is it direct patient care staff only or everyone that works in the hospital whether they have direct patient contact or not?

Health care workers are defined as paid full-time and part-time hospital employees and house staff (defined as residents and interns). Any health care worker who falls under this description must be included in the data reporting, whether or not they have direct patient contact.